

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 5/19/03, Applicant is filing this amendment. Please amend claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 18 and 19. Please cancel claim 11. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 12-23 are still pending.

In the Office Action mailed 5/19/03, the Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended claims 2 and 9, so that there is now sufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The Examiner has rejected pending claims 1-3, 10 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Inagawa et al. (U.S. Patent 4,453,260). The Examiner has also rejected claims 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inagawa et al. in view of Yeoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,650).

Applicant submits that Inagawa et al. alone, or in combination with Yeoh et al., fails to disclose the elements of the amended independent claims 1 and 18. Inagawa discloses how to quickly synchronize a sync protecting circuit with the detection of the sync signal when noise is produced by a sync signal detecting circuit. The embodiments of the invention recited in claims 1 and 18 recite language to mask (or masking) the next transition when the next transition occurs within the first or third time window, the mask (or masking) to prevent synchronization to an indication of a state change or to a presence of a preamble, both of which would provide synchronization to incorrect data rate transition.

As to the other independent claim (claim 10), Applicant submits that the allowable elements of claim 11 are now present in claim 10. All of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims 1, 10 or 18. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests for the withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Accordingly, Applicant requests for the allowance of pending claims 1-10 and 12-23, as amended.

Please charge any fee shortages to Sigmatel, Inc.'s USPTO Deposit Account No. 50-1415.

Respectfully submitted,

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